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NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Reptilia, Chelidae, *Acanthochelys macrocephala*: distribution, habitat, and geographical distribution map

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The big-headed Pantanal swamp turtle *Acanthochelys macrocephala* has a geographical distribution restricted to central South America, mainly in the Paraguay River basin, along the Pantanal and Chaco biomes (e.g. Métrailler 2003; Souza in press). The few records of species distribution are related to Mato Grosso (Rhodin et al. 1984) and Mato Grosso do Sul in Brazil (Kinas et al. 2005). During fieldworks in the Parque Estadual do Pantanal do Rio Negro (PEPRN) and in the Serra de Maracaju, both in Mato Grosso do Sul, we registered the presence of *A. macrocephala* and these new records have important consequences for the actual knowledge on species geographical distribution.

In 20 Oct 2005, at the PEPRN (19º25´34.8" S, 56º36´19.7" W), municipality of Corumbá, we collected skeletal remains of *A. macrocephala* near a shallow bay covered by cattail (*Typha dominguensis*) and surrounded by semideciduous forest dominated by Babaçu palm trees (*Orbignya speciosa*). The forest edges are bordered by bromeliads (*Bromelia balansae*). In 20 Aug 2005 at 16:00 h, in the Serra de Maracaju (19º44´16.56" S, 55º08´58.41" W), municipality of Corguinho, we found a juvenile turtle (ZUFMS 221) (Figure 1) in an intermittent stream inside a semideciduous forest at an altitude of 440 m. The stream is surrounded by Buriti palms (*Mauritia flexuosa*) and edges were characterized by flooded areas with innumerous ponds (Figure 2). This record extends the known species distribution 120 km northeast from the Fazenda Rio Negro, Pantanal region.

Figure 1. A juvenile *Acanthochelys macrocephala* captured in the Serra de Maracaju, Corguinho municipality, Mato Grosso do Sul state, Brazil. Photo by R. W. Ávila.

Figure 2. An intermittent stream in a semideciduous forest at Serra de Maracaju. Photo by R. W. Ávila.

Although both records also belong to the Paraguay River basin, the habitat described above, at least for the Serra de Maracaju, constitutes a totally new type for *A. macrocephala*, which was early considered a typical shallow bays and salt lagoons dweller (Figure 3) (Mauro et al. 2004; Vincke and Vincke 2001). This suggests that *A. macrocephala* can explore a wide variety of habitat types than previously reported.

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Figure 3. A typical shallow bays and salt lagoons (center of the photo) system at the Pantanal do Rio Negro, Brazil. Photo by Masao Uetanabaro.

Probably the species is also distributed near the municipality of Coxim (ca. 18º33´45" S, 54º41´15" W) in a typical Cerrado habitat, since one of us (FLS) identified a turtle skeletal from that locality. This late record could extend the geographical distribution of *A. macrocephala* ca. 65 km northeast from the nearest record (Figure 4). However, further observations in Coxim region are needed to clarify if this record come from a real population or simply represent an introduction by local people.

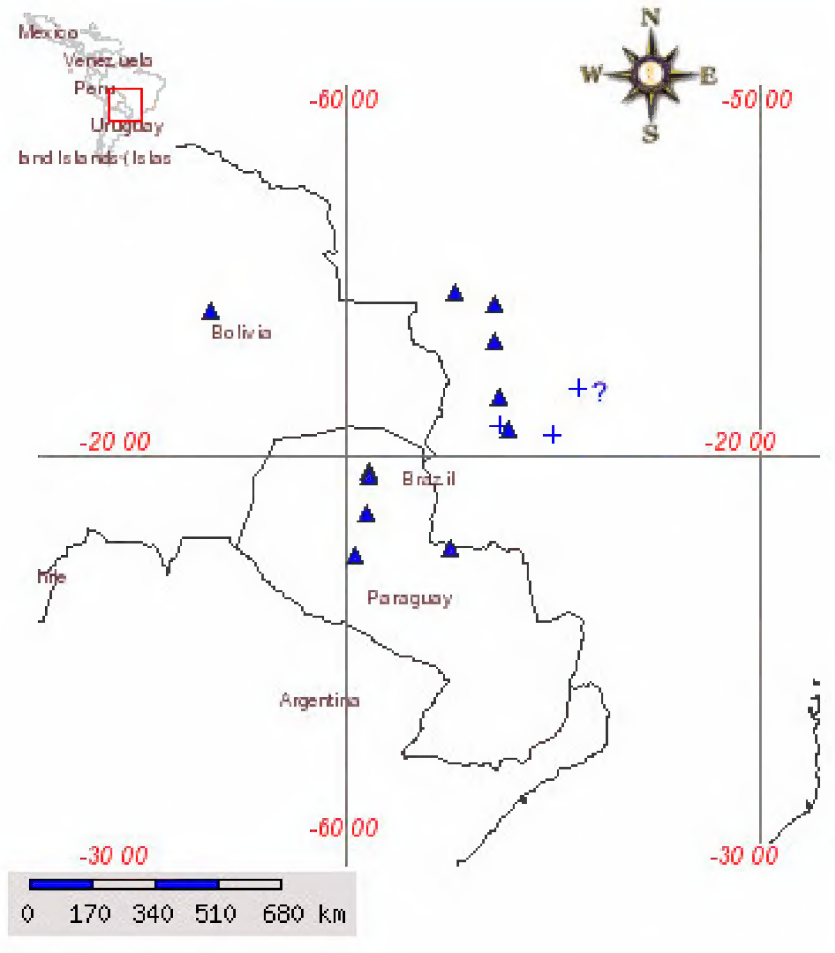

Figure 4. Geographic distribution map of *A. macrocephala*. Crosses represent the new records (including the municipality of Coxim, assigned with a question mark "?"). Triangles represent localities described in Buskirk (1988), Cintra and Yamashita (1989), Iverson (1992), Kinas *et al.* (2005), Métrailler (2003), Rhodin *et al.* (1984), and Vincke and Vincke (2001).

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ERRATA

By a misidentification by one of some of us (RWA, PLF, and ALCC) of a captured animal and an error of identification of the photographed animal by FLS and two reviewers, the manuscript "Reptilia, Chelidae, *Acanthochelys macrocephala*: distribution, habitat, and geographical distribution map" (by Robson W. Ávila, Franco L. Souza, Paulo Landgref-Filho, and Ana Luiza C. Campos; *Check List*, 2006, 2: 35-37) must be ignored. The focus animal is a juvenile *Mesoclemmys vanderhaegei* and not *Acanthochelys macrocephala* as previous reported. Thus, *A. macrocephala* geographical distribution remains known as depicted by Kinas *et al*. (2005: Geographic distribution. *Acanthochelys macrocephala*. Herpetological Review 36(3): 335) but record from Coxim municipality (MS) must be investigated as suggested in manuscript. Although new record, this finding of *M. vanderhaegei* in Serra de Maracaju does not change species geographical distribution.

We apologize for our mistake.

The authors.

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